of south-east England. The rapid pacification of the south-east resulted in early traces of Roman-style villa-culture, and we have a wealth of recorded mosaics from major towns, particularly St Albans, Colchester, Silchester, and of course some 130 mosaics from London. This makes for interesting comparison and analysis; for example, an appendix discusses differences in relative mosaic size between the largest towns. It also falls to this volume to document the enormous 'palace' at Fishbourne is Sussex, which once had around 2500m^2 of finely executed, Flavian or Trajanic mosaics. The buildings and its decorations barely fit any patterns for Britain. The closest parallels are in France and Italy – some of the mosaics would not seem out of place on the Bay of Naples, although they are rather too grand for Stabiae or Oplontis – and in this case there could have been more discussion of the Continental parallels and their significance. Yet this is a corpus, not a book about mosaics, and it offers an excellent foundation for many kinds of future research, across provincial boundaries as well as within Roman Britain.

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Andreas Fischer mit Beitrag von Markus Peter. *Vorsicht Glas! Die römischen Glasmanufakturen von Kaiseraugst* (Forschungen in Augst 37). 194 pages, 152 b&w & colour illustrations, tables. 2009. Augst: Augusta Raurica; 978-3-7151-0037-1 hardback CHFr.100 & €66.

This volume presents the results of the excavations of two adjacent Roman glass workshops in Kaiseraugst, Switzerland undertaken in 1974 and 1978. The final publication of the workshops located in the Lower Town of Augusta Raurica has been worth waiting for, as Andreas Fischer has now increased our knowledge of Roman glass furnaces in the Northwestern provinces by presenting a careful study of both workshops. The volume is divided into two main parts followed by a synthesis, a catalogue of the finds from the assemblages which are relevant for dating, the plates and an appendix on the coins by Markus Peter.

In the first part, the features and their phasing are presented and interpreted in detail. The glass workshops belong to a re-development of the Lower Town of Augusta Raurica, when the urban road network was set up around AD 100 and stone structures were built on a site which had previously been occupied by two military camps of the mid-first century AD and then lain idle during the second half of that century. The first glass workshop was installed in the early second century AD, and the second in the mid-second century AD. The first workshop was probably in use until shortly after the mid-second century AD, while the other operated until the early third century AD, when the buildings were altered or demolished. The pottery, coins and small finds used as dating evidence are included in the catalogue and illustrated on the plates at the end of the volume. The dating evidence is sufficient to support the chronological scheme proposed.

In the second part, the 15 glass furnaces recorded in the two workshops are presented in detail, followed by discussion of their interpretation and reconstruction. Three types of furnaces were found: nine were round furnaces, three were rectangular with apses and three were rectangular with tanks built into them. The round furnaces were pot furnaces for melting raw glass and cullet in crucibles, the rectangular furnaces with apses were annealing furnaces for cooling the glass vessels and the rectangular furnaces with tanks have been interpreted as furnaces either for melting large amounts of cullet or for producing raw glass, because they were exposed to high temperatures and had glass adhering to their walls or floors. Fourteen furnaces were found in the earlier workshop, and only one circular furnace in the less well preserved later workshop. A relative chronology of the furnaces in the early workshop has been established, indicating five phases of glass working. In phase one, two round furnaces are attested. In the next three phases, two round pot furnaces for melting glass to be blown into vessels operated at the same time as a rectangular annealing furnace for cooling the finished products. At the beginning of these phases a rectangular tank furnace to melt a large amount of glass was also in use, the first being used twice in phases two and three. In the last phase a single rectangular tank furnace was in operation. The sequence of furnaces makes sense, as it would be difficult to operate more furnaces at the same time in a workshop of this size. Apart for a large quantity of crucibles, which are presented in detail, only a few tools were found. The absence of

blowing pipes as well as other metal tools, except for a few fragments of iron pontils, indicates that the craftsmen took their tools with them when the workshop was abandoned. Similarly, the quantity of glass finds including raw glass, glass waste and cullet is not very large, suggesting that glass was melted in the last tank furnace to be taken away in lumps when glass working ended on the site. The finds of glass vessels suggest that square bottles were produced as well as dark green, almost black glass vessels of various forms. In addition, the production of mosaic tesserae from glass cakes is postulated.

The synthesis offers an interpretation of how the glass workshops could have operated. Although this is mainly based on assumption and the ideas presented by the author must remain hypothetical due to the absence of conclusive evidence, the discussion of the glass workshops within the economic and social context of Augusta Raurica is commendable. More such careful analyses of excavated glass workshops are needed, and also more studies of experimental work on glass furnaces. It is unfortunate that chemical analyses were not included as part of this study, as they could well have provided additional evidence for the interpretation of the workshops and for the unsolved question of the primary glass production. Archaeometry and archaeology should work closely together and finds from a glass workshop would be perfect for such collaborative work.

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RICHARD HINGLEY. *The recovery of Roman Britain 1586-1906: a colony so fertile*. (Oxford Studies in the History of Archaeology). xiv+390 pages, 58 illustrations. 2008. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 978-0-19-923702-9 hardback £75.

Richard Hingley has been a major contributor to the recent outpouring of publications on archaeological historiography and in particular that of Roman Britain. Adding to an already impressive bibliography comes this monograph, building on his *Roman officers and English gentlemen* (2000) which looked at the reception of Romano-British archaeology at the end of the nineteenth century and the outset of the twentieth. Now the objective is to explore '*the value of ideas derived from Roman Britain in the construction of British nationhood and in the context of empire-building, but with a far longer chronological perspective*' (pp. 1-2). But Hingley is at pains to explain that his text should not be regarded as a conventional historiographical narrative. Its chronological parameters are determined by what is regarded as the first sign of a more critical, less mythological understanding of the island's Roman remains, one that drew on a more sophisticated appreciation of the classical sources that were then becoming available. It also happens to be the date of the first edition of Camden's *Britannia*, although paradoxically Hingley plays down his legacy. It was more Thomas Browne, Edward Lhwyd and Robert Plot who pursued '*. . . more fully the potential value of . . . objects to provide evidence for past peoples*' (p. 83). Especially important in this respect was Browne, '*. . . the first of the authors . . . to use the concept of "Romanized" and it would appear that its value to him derived from his attempt to interpret the objects he studied*' (p. 84). Hingley's terminal date is the year of Francis Haverfield's British Academy lecture, *The Romanization of Roman Britain*, and its case for the island as '*. . . fully participating in the international culture of Rome, a view that contrasted dramatically with the established interpretation of Britain*' (p. 313).

The text consists of four chapters, prefaced by an Introduction and rounded off with a Conclusion. The chapters explore four inter-linked themes, each '*selected for their articulation of concepts of national origin and purpose*.' The first is about how the idea of civility or civilising of the province was first appreciated. In this respect Hingley argues that the concept, if not the word, 'Romanisation' was originally recognised in the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras and that it was derived as much from the recognition of the value of material objects as Tacitus' statement about Agricola bringing culture to the Britons. Not surprisingly writers in those times were much influenced, if not conditioned, by contemporary English attitudes to Rome and the subsequent political union of England and Scotland.

The second chapter is about evolving interpretations of the 'walling out of humanity' in northern Britain, a result of delimiting the province with the construction of the two Roman walls. Here are explored changing contemporary attitudes to the walls and to the region